

63-74581A

11 OCT 1963

Honorable Carl Hayden *care*
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Hayden:

This is in response to your letter of 27 September 1963 requesting such comments as we may care to make regarding the letter which you received from James L. Minahan of Fort Worth, Texas, on the subject of Mexican uranium projects.

The existence of uranium deposits in the Mexican areas cited in Dr. Minahan's report has been known for a number of years. Mexican intention to exploit these deposits has also been known for some time. However, Mexico does not have nor has there been any indication of immediate intent to build facilities for exploiting these deposits.

The nature and present status of the Mexican nuclear energy program is such that at the present time, or within the foreseeable future, exploitation of the cited deposits for military purposes would be beyond its capabilities. Mexican governmental controls established in 1950 and modified in 1952 preclude export of such materials under other than strict government control.

At the present time, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has two specialists, one a U.S. trained Argentine and the other a U.S. citizen, in Mexico assisting the Mexican government in

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aerial and ground surveys to detect the presence of other uranium deposits. This operation is strictly at the request of the Mexican government and the results would normally be available to all members of the IAEA.

In my view, there is nothing in the report by Dr. Minahan that would constitute a security risk along the U.S.-Mexican border.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you in your communications with Dr. Minahan.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN A. McCONE

John A. McCone
Director

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OGC/LC/GLC:jmd (9 Oct 63)

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

Attached is a suggested letter to Senator Hayden commenting on material he has forwarded on the subject of uranium deposits in Mexico and the possibility of a threat to U.S. security from this area. This reply has been prepared by Mr. [] of OSI, with assistance from his contacts in the Atomic Energy Commission.

[]
Legislative Counsel

9 OCT 1963

(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)